

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**For Immediate Release**

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For more information, go to [www.morningstarplay.com](http://www.morningstarplay.com)

Bass player Lou Gottlieb from *The Limelighters* buys his 30+ acre retreat north of San Francisco intending to develop it into high-end suburbia in the '60's. However, it seems the land has ideas of its own and when the hippies show up, some neighbors and Sonoma County officials get in the way of their ecotopia when Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park presents *MorningStar*, an original play with music and dance, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Pam, a woman seeking an alternative to today's lifestyle, visits Morning Star and meets Lou Gottlieb, owner and caretaker. Lou takes her back in time on his journey through those tumultuous times, when his conscience directed him to go against the Law of the Land, and how his decisions affected him and the greater community. Based upon the true story of Morning Star Ranch, the unintentional commune growing on a piece of land open to all by Lou Gottlieb, *MorningStar* is a story of people who are attempting to at least raise the question of how human beings should live with the earth and how society at large reacts to them. A local event which took place at a specific time (Occidental, California from the mid 1960s to the early 1970s), *MorningStar* is also a universal story that occurs both constantly and cyclically throughout eternity.

*MorningStar* is a large scale play - elaborate, involved, and dynamic. It is a symphony of many voices; an easily accessible story involving humor and beauty. The subject matter is historical, metaphysical, aesthetic, political, ethical and psychological, but it is also simply about nature. With the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Summer of Love celebrated by a free concert

at Golden Gate Park last summer 2007, and with the 2008 elections quickly approaching, MorningStar is a significant and timely performance.

Directed by Michael Fontaine, the production is written by Nicholas Alva. *Home Free Home, The Morning Star Scrapbook, Being of the Sun* and *Some of Those Who Were There* provided valuable source material. Lyrics and music written by Nicholas Alva, Ramon Sender, Alicia Bay Laurel, Joe Dolce, Brian Skinner, Mira Alfasa, Tanya Boone-Alva, Kelly Ann Walton, Wilder Bentley and Lou Gottlieb. The cast features Dave Struffles as Lou, Jonathan Van Nuys as Ramon, Claudia Larson as Divine Mother, Gloria Strasburg as Gina, and a wide array of ensemble members. Performances are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM, Sundays at 2:30 PM. Tickets are \$16 general. Tickets may be purchased by phoning the Spreckels Box Office at (707) 588-3400, in person during the Box Office hours of noon to 5 PM Tuesday-Saturday, or at the door the day of performance one hour before curtain. Reservations/advance sale are recommended as seating is limited. Student, senior, and group rates available. Spreckels Performing Arts Center is located at 5409 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. Go to [www.morningstarplay.com](http://www.morningstarplay.com) for more information.

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